

# CYS Child Behavior Brief for Child Care Providers: Reintegration / Reunion



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# Resources for CYS Staff

- Army Community Services Partner
  - Training, Materials & Books for children 3-17  
[http://www.armycommunityservice.org/vacs\\_deployment](http://www.armycommunityservice.org/vacs_deployment)
- Installation Social Work Services Partner
  - Training, Counseling Services for parents, staff
- Local school's guidance department Partner
  - Counseling, activities, resources
- Family Assistance Center Partner
  - Assistance to families during times of deployment
- Character Counts/Character Education Programs in your CYS programs and local schools
  - Six Pillars of character education:  
<http://www.charactercounts.org/>



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# Resources for CYS Staff

- Chaplain's Office Counseling Services and Community Support
  - <http://www.usarmychaplain.com>
- Military Child Education Coalition
  - [www.militarychild.org](http://www.militarychild.org)
    - (resources for deployment / reunion -- contained in this one)
- MilitaryStudent.org
  - <http://www.militarystudent.org/>
    - (a one stop web shop for school transition support)
- Little Listeners in an Uncertain World ( Zero to Three)
  - <http://www.zerotothree.org/coping/LittleListeners-2.html>



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# Resources for CYS Staff

- Conduct briefings for all child care center staff and Family Child Care providers within 30 days prior to redeployment of units.
- Provide resources within each Child Development Center and Family Child Care System that addresses typical behaviors seen in children after reunion with absent parent .
- Provide resources for staff to assist children /youth/ parents with reintegration & reunion expectations.
- Address reintegration & reunion plans and issues with CDC staff FCC providers.

# Reunion Phase

- Preparation before parents' return (children anticipate the reunion)
  - Start talking to children about the reunion
  - Anticipate questions
  - Discuss activities (homecoming, travel plans, special activities)
- Plan Activities and Special events
  - Create handmade "welcome home" signs
  - Plan to cook a favorite food or meal
  - Plan to involve parent in special events or project at the CYS facility



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# Reunion Phase

- Children's feelings/emotions
  - Talk to children about their excitement/concerns
  - Nervous feelings are normal
  - Help them gather "updates" and new skills they can share with the returning parent
  - Reunions are stressful for the whole family
  - Children assume everything will be exactly the same
  - Allow time for children to adjust
  - Observe children's behaviors



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# Reintegration / Preparing for the Reunion

- Readiness Support in Child Development Centers:
  - Adjust hours of operations to support extended duty day
  - Identify alternative child care sites to expand services
  - Use excess classrooms to operate alternative care options
  - Increase availability of hourly care when possible
  - Expedite background checks and staff recruitment actions
  - Augment safety and security measures with added personnel
  - Designate staff as “mission essential personnel”
  - Reduce fees for extended hours child care provided in support of the GWOT mission



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# Reintegration / Preparing for the Reunion

- Facts To Consider: IMA-E Unique
  - Surge Care needed for:
    - Reintegration classes ( 7 days each)
    - Block leave ( 30 days)
  - CYS Staff and FCC providers may need to attend the reintegration classes
  - Many spouses are working spouses in the community
    - Time off of work will impact operations
    - Spouses annual leave options for classes/ block leave





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# Reintegration / Preparing for the Reunion

- Readiness Support - Additional CYS Services:
- Short Term Alternative Child Care (STACC)
  - On-site hourly surge / group child care
  - Parents must be attending function(s) located in same facility
  - Provided by CYS staff / FCC providers
- Volunteer Child Care In Unit Settings (VCCUS)
  - On-site child care hourly / surge group child care
  - Parents must be attending function(s) located in same facility
  - Provided by family members in one military unit for family members in another military unit
- Hourly Care
  - Short term intermittent care generally for non-working parents and volunteers
  - Child Development Center, Family Child Care

# Reintegration / Preparing for the Reunion

- Before And After School Program
  - Supervised environment compliments the school day
  - Includes homework centers / youth technology labs
  - Frequently offered on and off post through school and community partnerships
- Youth Center Programs
  - Predictable options and services during out of school time for middle school and
  - Teens in youth centers and school age facilities
  - Includes leisure activities, life skills classes, volunteer opportunities, workforce preparation, individual and group sports and fitness activities, homework centers, youth technology labs



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# Reintegration / Preparing for the Reunion

- Respite Care
  - Short term hourly care provided as “break” from child care responsibilities
  - May be used as component of a child abuse prevention plan
  - Generally provided at no cost or at reduced rates for a limited period of time
- Family Child Care (FCC)
  - Extended Care
    - Routine evening care
    - Mission related child care in excess of 12 hours per day
  - Back up Care
    - FY 04 new pilot option - regular child care arrangements break down/can't be used
    - Major objective is to keep parents / Service members on the job /smooth reunions



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# CYS Response Options

- Existing CYS staff vacancies are high
  - Applicant pool/ inventory low - VCCUS – CLEOS trains / supports other unit spouses to conduct (7 day classes)
  - Special FCC Provider contracts (7 day classes)
  - Collaborate with Boys and Girls Clubs staff to supplement
  - Share staffing resources with other BSBs
    - CYS
    - Detail/ borrow other MWR Personnel to supplement CDC or STACC sites
    - Share personnel and scheduling with all CYS program components and delivery systems (i.e.YS, Contract personnel)
    - Access DODDS teacher substitute lists
    - Partner with community